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Elliott, Howard

The land of fortune

Saint Paul

[1909?]

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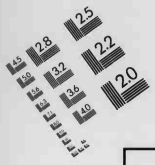

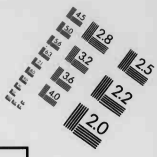

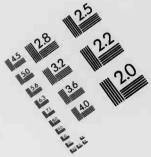

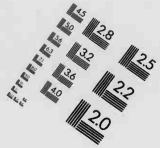

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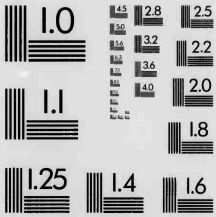

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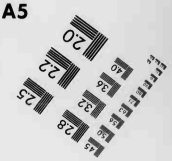

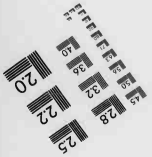

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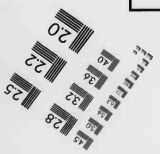

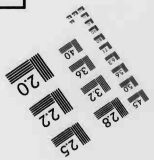

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The Land of Fortune

THE
LAND OF FORTUNE

ADDRESS

BY

HOWARD ELLIOTT
President Northern Pacific Railway Company

AT THE

NATIONAL IRRIGATION CONGRESS

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON
AUGUST 11, 1909

MC GILL-WARNER COMPANY
SAINT PAUL

D.E.H. 1 July '16

THE LAND OF FORTUNE

We are meeting today in the Land of Fortune; a land where there is opportunity for the earnest and hard-working American citizen to make a home for himself in many different pursuits. We are meeting in one of the most prosperous cities in this Land of Fortune; a city fortunate in its natural surroundings and advantages; fortunate in the character of its people, who have made good use of these natural advantages in many forms of human activity; a city where the struggle for existence has not pushed to one side wholesome development of the home, the school, the church, and civic advancement; a city which its inhabitants can justly describe as "The City Beautiful."

The growth of the West, and particularly of the Pacific Northwest, has been very rapid. There are doubtless some present today who remember that day in 1881—April 15—when the Northern Pacific ran its first train into the then little village of Spokane Falls, which, sixteen months later, was connected with the East by the completion of the through line between the Great Lakes, the Mississippi river and the Pacific ocean. In a little more than 25 years, the village of only 600 has grown to be a modern and progressive city of nearly 125,000, and the railway has become one of the great transcontinental lines of the country.

In all ages, there have been great movements of population—the result of forces of one kind and another that impel the human being to change his habitation. The Romans conquered and colonized the then known world; the Spaniards sailed away to search for gold and for the conquest of new countries; the Puritans left England to seek for a land in which thay could develop their own theories of life without interference. Many people from the Atlantic coast pushed out to the fertile valley of Ohio in the early part of the nineteenth century to

make homes for themselves and their families. In 1849 there was the rush to California to seek for gold. Still later, with the building of the Union Pacific, the pioneer turned his face to the then comparatively unknown regions west of the Missouri river.

The building of the Northern Pacific from 1870 on, started a movement of people to the Northwest. Now the expansive force of 90,000,000 people of the United States is sending thousands of wholesome men and women into this great Northwest, not to seek for religious freedom, not to seek political liberty, for they have both everywhere in this broad land—not to conquer a weaker people, not to get gold and silver from the mines —but for the purpose of making homes and earning an honest living with patient and earnest work on the farm, in the orchard and in the forest.

The immigrant from foreign countries also turns with longing eyes from his now crowded environment to this happy Land of Fortune.

Irrigation has been practiced for many centuries, but its development in the United States on any large scale is the work of the last fifteen years. Much has been accomplished, and yet the work is only fairly begun. Probably not to exceed one-tenth of the area that will be reclaimed finally, is now under ditches. Until the pressure of population and the demand for land had utilized the areas where there was sufficient rain fall, there was no necessity or inducement for irrigation. The principal area within which irrigation is necessary or advantageous, is in that great region lying west of the hundredth meridian.

One of the great laws for the development of the natural resources of the country was the Reclamation Act of 1902. It provided ways and means for the construction of the larger irrigation projects upon a basis which insured a return to the public treasury of every dollar expended. The fund of approximately $50,000,000 made available by this law, is being used as rapidly as practicable, upon various important projects scattered through the entire West, and the results are already becoming apparent. The example of the government is being supplemented by private enterprises, and, as irrigation becomes better understood, securities based upon well considered and well constructed irrigation

enterprises are looked upon with favor by capital. It is most important, therefore, that the country generally understands that irrigation, when installed and managed properly, is a safe business and one in which prudent men may invest their money.

Under the law of 1902, the United States Reclamation Service has done, and is doing now, one of the great works of the age in furnishing opportunities for homeseekers and homebuilders. In the Reclamation Service are many strong, good men, hard working and of high purpose, and much credit should be given to them.

Before irrigation was as well understood in this country as it is today, public opinion had to be created in favor of it, and for several years prior to the passage of the Reclamation Act, much was done to arouse sentiment in favor of the present policy. In this work, the great transcontinental railways west of the Missouri river took an active part, both with money and work; and they have, at all times, cooperated with the government in trying to have reclaimed, the maximum amount of arid land.

In the same way, the railways are now cooperating with governmental authorities, both state and national, in the effort to secure better methods for the farming of the semi-arid lands, greater care of the forests, and for the reclamation of the swamp lands.

I am, therefore, very glad to have the privilege of saying a few words on this important occasion, representing, as I do, the Northern Pacific Railway Company, that built across the country from the Great Lakes and the Mississippi valley to the Pacific ocean at a time when there was little encouragement to put money into such an undertaking. A road that has failed twice in its struggle to become a first-class transportation agency, and that has only recently been able to pay to its owners any return; a road that in common with all the large railway systems of the country, is anxious to do its fair share in helping to develop the wonderful country and thriving cities through which it runs; a road which desires and instructs its officers and employes to work with and for the people in the upbuilding of the states; a road which may be described truly as "The Scenic Highway through the Land of Fortune."

Where the great trail blazers, Lewis and Clark,

made their famous journey through the valleys of the Missouri, Yellowstone and Columbia rivers, meeting only a few Indians, there are now hundreds of thousands of acres of land under irrigation, yielding good crops and supporting a large population. The hunting grounds of the Indians have been transformed into prosperous farms; and villages, towns and cities with varied industries, have taken the place of the Indian tepee.

In the states traversed by the Northern Pacific railway from the Missouri river to the Pacific ocean, including North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, there are about 3,000,000 acres now under irrigation or to be irrigated in the not distant future. Allowing an average of 40 acres to a family, and five persons to a family, this acreage will support 375,000 people. It is not unfair to add to this number 375,000 more people, representing the number needed to supply the wants of these tillers of the soil and to transport their products.

It may be said that 40 acres of irrigated land is a high average for each family—for it is well known that a five-acre fruit farm will support comfortably a family that is industrious and careful. Forty acres of irrigated land planted to grasses, cereals or root crops will also support a family if intelligence and industry are used. In fact, the best results will be obtained eventually from small farm units worked carefully and thoroughly. Some interested in irrigation claim an average of twenty acres to the family is high enough, but to be conservative, an average of forty is used. As the science of utilizing irrigated lands becomes better understood, and as the demand for the products of irrigated land increases, there is little doubt but what an average of forty acres could be reduced to thirty, and perhaps to twenty acres. On the basis of forty acres, this 3,000,000 acres in these Northwestern states will furnish a living directly or indirectly to at least 750,000 people, or one person to each four acres. There are 2,305,913,600 acres in the United States, and if all this could be made as useful as an acre of irrigated land, this country would be supporting a population of 576,478,000 people. This statement illustrates the importance of making the best use of the productive land of the country.

The opportunities for a new settler on irrigated lands in the Northwest are sufficiently varied to meet

his desires and resources, whatever they may be. He can get a farm under the Huntley project of the United States, in the Yellowstone valley, within twenty miles of Billings, at $34 per acre, payable in ten annual installments, without interest, where he can raise alfalfa and other kinds of grasses, sugar beets and root crops, as well as cereals and small fruits, with a market for all he can raise, at his door, and with first-class transportation facilities. He can duplicate this at a slightly increased cost per acre on the lower Yellowstone project of the government near Glendive, or he can obtain good land from one of the various private companies in the Yellowstone valley and its tributaries, the Gallatin, Madison, Powder, Tongue, Sweet Grass, Shields and others.

The development of electric power from water in and along the Yellowstone and Columbia valleys, and their tributary streams, will, in time, bring more land under irrigation through pumping, and thus increase the available area.

If he prefers orcharding, he can satisfy his desires in the beautiful Bitter Root valley, south from Missoula, the home of the Red McIntosh apple, or he can come farther west to the district surrounding Spokane, the irrigation development of which has been marvelous, and which speaks volumes for the enterprise and faith of those who have promoted that development. Or, he can go down into the Lewiston-Clarkston district, where the historic Snake and Clearwater rivers meet, or he can go to the Walla Walla district, the home of the martyred Whitman, or along the Columbia river; or into the very shadow of the fir clad snow-capped Cascade mountains he can find a home in the famous Yakima, Kittitas, Wenatchee and Hood River valleys, where every kind of fruit that can be raised in the temperate zone grows to the highest perfection and demands a premium in the world's markets. Or he can begin to make his plans for obtaining a home in the Flathead Indian reservation, soon to be opened for settlement and capable of supporting a considerable population upon farms both with and without irrigation water. Or, he can locate on the lines of the Great Northern in Montana and Washington, or along the Union Pacific

in Idaho and Oregon, and find many desirable places where he can make his home and a comfortable living.

Along the sunny slopes of the Clearwater, Snake and Columbia rivers, the cultivation and production of grapes will, one of these days, equal and surpass the famous vineyards of the Rhine and Rhone.

In addition to utilizing his irrigated farm for fruits, grains and grasses, the careful husbandman can obtain profit through poultry raising and dairying.

Now, I have said this is "The Land of Fortune." What can the man with good health, courage and willingness to work, but small means, do to make a place for himself? Here are a few actual examples:

He may repeat the experience of Mr. I. D. O'Donnell, who, starting without capital, is now one of the most influential farmers in the state of Montana, and whose profits for the year 1908 from his ranch of 640 acres in the Yellowstone valley, ten miles west of Billings, planted to sugar beets and alfalfa, after deducting all expenses, taxes and depreciation, were $15,712, an average of approximately $25 per acre.

I quote from statement made by Mr. O'Donnell, June 21, 1909:

"Lands in the vicinity of the farm are selling at $100 per acre, but my farm is not for sale. But I base the return on the prevailing price of land in the vicinity. The farm gave the following returns for the last year:

640 acres at $100 per acre	$64,000
Complete outfit for work, machinery, horses, wagons, harness, etc	10,000
Total invested	$74,000
Receipts for the year 1908:	
240 acres of sugar beets	$20,400
Wintering 8000 sheep	12,000
Grain, hogs and chickens	1,200
1600 boxes of apples	1,600
Total receipts for 1908	$35,200
Expense:	
Beet labor on 240 acres at $42.50	$10,200
Cutting, stacking, feeding 1200 tons of alfalfa at $2.50	3,000

Extra labor and expense during year	2,000
Tax on land	548
Interest on sheep money	960
Tax on sheep	320
20 per cent off on property	2,000
Interest on beet labor	300
Water maintenance	160
Total expense	$19,488
Total receipts	35,200
Total expense	19,488
Total gain	$15,712

"Yours truly,

"(Signed) I. D. O'DONNELL."

Or, he can duplicate the experience of Mr. E. L. Stewart, who was a station agent of the Northern Pacific Railway company, and purchased 20 acres in the Yakima valley near Prosser, in 1895, and whose profits for the six years ending with the season of 1908 on six acres of Spitzenberg and Red Creek Pippin apples, averaged $472.50 per acre. In 1908, the receipts from this orchard were $6,899.40, and expenses $1,829.40, leaving the net return $5,070, or $847.50 per acre. The land cost $55 per acre in 1895, or $330, and Mr. Stewart sold the place in 1908 for $10,000.

Mr. Ingwall Smith came to Kennewick, Wash., in July, 1904, and purchased a ten-acre ranch. This was planted to both fruits and alfalfa, and has been farmed ever since—one-half in alfalfa and one-half in fruit. After the second year Mr. Smith has received a living for a family of five and netted $1,200 a year. He raised asparagus, apricots, peaches, apples, berries, vegetables, poultry and alfalfa.

The following give some results in the Yakima valley territory, and the figures can be obtained in detail from the publicity committee of the Yakima Commercial club:

H. M. Gilbert raised $19,295 worth of mixed fruits on 13 acres. W. I. Huxtable raised $13,000 worth of peaches on eight acres. J. H. Forman raised $3,000 worth of pears on three-fourths of an acre. Mrs. W. L. Wright raised $13,000 worth of apples on eight acres. J. C. Shadbolt raised $30,000 worth of mixed fruit on 37

acres. Osborne Russell raised $4,000 worth of apples on one and one-third acres.

In the Bitter Root valley, Mr. Thomas Padden of Darby had a gross return of $1,600 per acre from Red McIntosh apple trees.

Mr. Gus D. Corus of the same place received net $800 per acre.

Mr. W. R. Gibford of the same place received $3,300 from five acres of Shackelford pear trees. Twelve-year-old Snow apple trees brought him 10 to 14 boxes each and sold for $2 per box, or from $20 to $28 per tree.

Mr. Noonan of Stevensville picked 5420 quarts of strawberries from one-quarter of an acre, receiving over $300.

Mr. S. A. Crab of Grantsdale realized a profit of $40 on one-quarter of an acre of radishes and spinach, and after that planted the same ground to celery, receiving $135, or a total net profit of $175 on one-quarter of an acre.

Mr. Peter Spohn of Clakston, Wash., writes under date of July 28, 1908:

"I went from Northern Ohio to Colorado in 1882. Followed market gardening at Denver and Fort Collins for about 18 years. In 1900 I went to Missoula, Mont., and remained there until 1905. Since then I have followed market gardening here. I cultivated seven acres, by hand, and raised a variety of crops. In 1907 one acre of White Spine cucumbers netted me $750, there being 750 boxes at $1 per box, of five dozen per box. I took from a quarter of an acre 4000 cabbages, mostly Jersey Wakefields. Prices were unusually good in 1907 and I got $3.75 per 100 pounds gross, or about $6 per crate of 210 pounds. I had, in all, 57.

"From one and three-fourth acres of Monte Cristo watermelons I took 7300 melons of 12 pounds or over in weight each. These netted about $700.

"I had one-half an acre of Rocky Ford cantaloupes which netted me about $350. With these I did much better in 1906, which was a more favorable year for cantaloupes.

"From the watermelon ground I took 3500 pounds of Alaska early peas, which brought, net, $200.

"A quarter of an acre of Grand Rapids lettuce netted me $400. These were 260 boxes of 20 pounds to the box.

A half an acre of White Queen (pickle) onions brought in $250. I shipped 50 dozen bunches of table onions per day for three weeks. One-half acre of carrots produced well, realizing about $125. Miscellaneous stuff aggregated $100, making $3000 increase from four and three-fourth acres; two and one-fourth acres were non-productive. Our income clear of all expenses was $1800. My interest in the property is a working interest, being one-half the expense and income. The owner's returns were 300 per cent on the total investment of $3500 in the property."

Mr. F. B. Laing of the Lewiston-Clarkston district believes that there are large profits in the berrying business and says under date of August 3, 1908:

"No one has as yet undertaken to develop the strawberry here and I am satisfied there is great money in it. On a limited area in Vineland, one year after raising a good crop of these berries I cultivated the bed carefully and to my surprise it bore a second crop, yielding at the rate of $230 an acre. The following summer it again bore a good crop, bringing returns at the rate of $500 an acre. As I soon after sold the place I know nothing of that bed since then.

"Am satisfied the strawberry will do as well as here indicated, all over this region. In strawberry culture intense cultivation is demanded."

Mr. G. A. Fraser has found that a man can earn a good living in the chicken business, and reports as follows:

"Chicken raising is my principal business. My chickens are all Leghorns—brown and white, principally white Leghorns. I have 700 chickens, 300 old and 400 young. Last year I had 250 layers, which were three and four years old, and after running the place, making certain improvements, and feeding the young chickens, they gave me a profit of $1 per hen. This year I have 300 layers and have been getting an average of 12 dozen eggs a day. This is not a very large average, on account of most of my layers this year being lot pullets. The yearling and two-year-old stock is the best for laying.

"From my experience I am fully satisfied that any man of ordinary ability who will use standard bred stock and feed and care for the chickens according to latest improved methods can make a success of poultry rais-

ing in the Lewiston-Clarkston country. With proper care and attention there is no reason why flocks should be carried off by the ordinary chicken diseases—and mites and lice are easily gotten rid of.

"There are no rats in this country."

In the Century Magazine for March, 1908, there was an article entitled "One Acre Ranch." Mr. John W. Lipe, 60 years old, bought a one-acre place in the Lewiston-Clarkston district for $1400. He had no experience, but he had courage, and in 1902, he started out. In the year 1907 he received from chickens and eggs, $150, vegetables $72, fruit $50 and prizes at fairs $130, preserved fruits and vegetables made by Mrs. Lipe $150, a total from one acre of $552, besides what the family themselves used.

To produce such returns as this, requires good management and constant labor, and Mr. Lipe worked with his brains as well as with his hands, and utilized every inch of ground.

Many other examples in great detail could be given of results equally as good, in the Walla Walla district, Wenatchee and in the Columbia river valley.

There are, of course, some failures, some bad luck, and the best results in irrigation farming can only be obtained with care, attention, intelligence and hard work. With the exercise of these qualities, the percentage of success in farming lands in irrigated districts is just as high, if not higher, than in any other business in this country.

In all these cases, these different men who had the courage and foresight to begin business in new fields have received a reward for their patience, intelligence and industry in seeing their property increase daily in value and by earning a handsome return on that increased value. This is an advantage that comes to the man who is willing to engage in the business of farming irrigated lands. If successful, he is allowed to earn and to retain his earnings on the growing value of his property. No commission, either federal or state, comes to him and says, "You only put so much actual money into your farm and you are entitled to earn only the normal rate of interest on the amount invested; we have decided, therefore, to reduce the price of your apples and

alfalfa and other products to a figure that will allow you that return, but no more."

How different is the situation with the owner of railroad property! "The laborer is worthy of his hire," and the greatest laborer today, after the farmer, is the railroad. It has no eight-hour day and no holidays, and for all the risk and work it has undertaken in the last forty years, there are few who rise up and say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." The real railroad question today is not whether the rate for handling passengers shall be 3c or 2c; not whether the rate on wheat shall be reduced from 17½c to 15c per hundred pounds, or on nails from $1 to 90c per hundred pounds, or on coal from $1.65 to $1.50 per ton, or on apples from $1 to 85c per hundred pounds, but whether the country will permit rewards sufficient to induce strong and able men to invest money and to engage in the business of owning, managing and operating railroads so that the facilities for handling the people and products of our expanding country will keep pace with the demand.

The irrigation movement is looked upon generally from its material, industrial and money-making side, but it will have its good effect in the development of national character. For one thing, it will encourage the habit of work of every kind, both with the hands as well as with the head.

What one can accomplish, another can, if he is willing to work; to put in long days of hard, persistent and intelligent work, both mental and physical. Of late years, there has been preached quite generally, the doctrine that men must not work too hard. Many politicians, in a laudable desire to improve the living conditions of the voters—philanthropists and preachers with a natural desire to abolish squalor and suffering—labor unions in their reasonable efforts to improve the mental, moral, physical and financial conditions of their members, and the relation of labor to capital, have all been saying that eight hours a day is all that a man should work, and that even then the amount of work he should do in those eight hours should be limited. This doctrine tends to crush out ambition and to reduce the power and effectiveness of the American man. The government itself, unfortunately, has not set as good an example as it should in demanding a full day's work for

a full day's pay, and the recent earnest effort of President Taft and his advisers for greater efficiency and economy in the public service is most wise and timely. The man who comes to this western country to build a home for himself, should not come if he expects to accomplish results by working only eight hours a day, with numerous holidays. Everyone who has accomplished much in this world has worked from 10 to 14 hours a day. The United States is growing faster than any of us realize, and there is much work to be done. More work can be done by 90,000,000 people working 10 hours a day than by working eight hours a day, and that work is needed to advance this country as it should be advanced. This country is approaching the time when it will need for the support of its own people, all food produced, and its exports must be manufactured articles that must meet the competition of all the countries of the world. To do this we must produce better and cheaper goods or lose the business.

If one of the lessons of this great movement to preserve, conserve and make the best use of the natural resources of the country is to teach people that hard work and lots of it is good for man, this Irrigation Congress will have done much to help the general situation in the United States.

The irrigation movement means much also to the country, in that it points out a way to men to become home owners instead of working for wages in overcrowded cities.

In our efforts to give every boy and girl an education, I fear we have gone too far in the direction of educating the head and neglecting the hand, and in turning out of schools and college each year, an increasing number of boys and girls who want to be clerks, work in stores and offices and live in cities. In other words, to be consumers instead of producers.

Too much praise cannot be given to the Agricultural School, the Experimental Station and the Manual Training School, all of which are preparing boys and girls to take their part in the world as producers and to become independent men and women instead of employes of others.

One of the greatest dangers confronting us in this country is the drifting from the farm to the city, due in

part to the desire for society and the dislike of the drudgery of farm life. In an irrigated district, these drawbacks disappear. Small farms mean a more dense population, consequently an improved social life. The control of the life-giving water eliminates the chief hazard in the farm, and reduces it to an almost exact science. To the city dweller there is nothing more attractive than an irrigated valley, with its trees, flowers, beautiful homes, schools, churches, telephones, rural mail delivery, and general air of content and prosperity. The farmer of irrigated land is blessed with all the substantial comforts of human existence, and his life should be as comfortable as that of anyone who is willing to work.

The irrigation movement will, also, help to educate people back to the necessity for care and economy and away from extravagance. In the era of great expansion, through which the country has passed, during which unexcelled natural resources have been exploited and great areas of public land have been taken up at nominal prices, we have all been wasteful in our methods of living; individuals, cities, the state and the nation. The great corporations, under the spur of necessity, have set the best example in the country for exactness, care, economy and the elimination of waste in their operations. Our governments, municipal, state and national, if they would and could exact the same care, economy and the same amount of work from all of their employes that the great business enterprises exact, would reduce their expenses very materially, and that reduction could either be used to reduce taxation, or to further the education of the younger generation in agriculture, manual training, conservation of the soil, forestry —in other words, for the work of being producers, rather than for the work of the middleman and the consumer.

The necessity for economy that has forced the great business enterprises of the country to adopt every possible means for saving and for effective work and for the elimination of waste and extravagance, is now confronting the United States, with its rapidly increasing population and the consequent increased demand for food and means of living. This necessity will compel the

country to be more careful, and the sooner we begin, the better.

France is a country of only 207,054 square miles, and with a population of nearly 40,000,000—yet she is the banker nation of the world, and supports her people comfortably, but they are moderate in their demands, willing to work long and hard, careful about everything, saving, and a French family can live on what an American family wastes.

The German empire has 208,000 square miles, and a population of 60,000,000. Austria-Hungary has 261,000 square miles and a population of 47,000,000. Idaho, Washington and Oregon have 245,730 square miles, and not over 2,500,000 people. How many happy and prosperous people will these three great commonwealths support when careful and intelligent use is made of their matchless resources?

In an Irrigation Congress, it may seem queer to mention the subject of "Dry Farming;" nevertheless, that movement is co-ordinate with the one that this Congress represents. When every acre has been irrigated that can be, there will remain millions of acres in the so-called arid regions capable of producing grains, grasses and roots in profitable amounts, if proper methods are followed.

If anyone had said a few years ago that a crop of nearly forty bushels to the acre of winter wheat would be produced on lands in Eastern Montana without irrigation, his sanity would have been doubted, nevertheless, the actual average yield, carefully measured at the four demonstration farms being operated jointly by the state of Montana and the Northern Pacific Railway company for the last four years was 37.71 bushels of winter wheat per acre.

These results were obtained on small farm units where close attention could be given to every detail, and as large returns as this might not be obtained where the farming was carried on on a very large scale. There is, however, no doubt but that millions of acres now used only for grazing, can be made to produce grains to a profitable extent by exercising care and intelligence, and by hard work.

The example set by those interested in the development of irrigation, in holding annual conventions to

advance their cause is now being followed by those interested in the so-called "Dry Farming," who will hold their second annual convention at Billings, Mont., next October.

Meetings like this where many men of many minds come together, do much to direct the latent power of this great country in a reasonable and wise manner, and with consideration for all interests. We have passed through ten years of much discussion—oftentimes bitter—about the relations of labor, capital, the railroad, the shipper, the corporation and the employe. Some mistakes have been made by all parties, and there has been delay in the development of this great western country, because of attacks upon the rights of property. These attacks made in an honest effort to correct abuses (abuses, which, in nearly every case, have been magnified and distorted, and which were incident to the tremendous work imposed upon the great business enterprises of the country) have frightened capital. Let us hope that we are entering now upon a period when the necessary discussion of the great business affairs of the country will be had in a calm and reasonable manner by all. Such a policy will mean much for the country west of the Missouri river, where capital and labor both are needed in great quantity, and where they will come quickly and effectively if assured of fair treatment.

This Northwest of ours is just beginning to realize its great power and future. It is like a strong, brave and beautiful young man awakening to an understanding of his physical and mental powers and entering upon a career of hard work and noble achievement. The work now going on to reclaim the arid lands, drain the swamp lands, conserve the soil, preserve and renew the forests, use for agricultural purposes dry lands formerly thought to be useful only for grazing, are all steps in the forward progress of the United States in preparing to supply food, wood and homes for a population five times what we now have. They are also steps in increasing the number of those who live near to the soil and nature—freeholders, who, in the long run, will save the republic from the complications that sooner or later are sure to arise in the congested cities where living conditions are becoming too hard to bear. These great movements set in motion forces which will postpone the day in this

country which Oliver Goldsmith describes so well, as follows:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay,
Princes and lords may flourish or may fade,
A breath can make them as a breath has made,
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

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